

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Confirmation No.: 6856
Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.) Examiner: Alexander Belousov
Serial No.: 10/583,365) Group Art Unit: 2894
Filed: June 19, 2006)
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE)

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed November 3, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 19, 2006; September 1, 2006; and March 14, 2008.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-9 are independent. Claims 5-7 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 8-14 are currently elected, of which claims 1-4, 8 and 9 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 2 of the Official Action continues to reject claims 1-4 and 8-14 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,509,217 to Reddy, U.S. Publication No. 2001/0038127 to Yamazaki and U.S. Publication No. 2005/0140539 to Fujieda. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the Official Action has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness.